

Bombing Destroys City Police Car

JUN 5 1970

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An unmarked Oakland police car was blown up last night by hit-run bombers who escaped unseen.

The car exploded in flames and its interior was destroyed.

According to police, Officers Donald B. Burnett and Jeffrey Clague parked on Fruitvale Avenue at the corner of E. 14th Street about 9:50 p.m. and went into Alpine Family Billiards, 3136 E. 14th, on a security check.

They were inside only a few minutes. As they emerged they heard a muffled explosion and saw their patrol car ablaze. Neither man was injured.

The blast blew out all windows in the vehicle and two

windows in the billiard parlor, scattering broken glass 100 feet in all directions.

A squad of some 25 officers poured onto the scene and scoured the streets for a block hunting evidence.

Among the debris they found a shattered bottle that had contained an unknown substance, and in the back seat was a length of two-inch pipe and brads or tacks, leading to speculation that the attackers hurled both a fire bomb and pipe bomb.

There were no witnesses.

The car, which bore no police decals or other markings, was a 1968 off-white Ford sedan.

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A Booby Trap on Bus Bench

DEC 5 1977

By HARRY HARRIS

The bomb on a bus stop bench that exploded and injured six Oakland youngsters was a sophisticated device with an uncommon kind of explosive, police said, and there may be more of them around.

A highly sensitive bomb, it went off yesterday when 13-year-old Alejandro (Alex) Morales tugged the contents only two or three inches out of the unmarked brown envelope.

The youth's left hand was blown off, his family said, and he appears to have been blinded. He is in critical condition in Alta Bates Hospital.

Police said the bomb was not mistakenly left on the bench on Park Boulevard, but was instead "placed in an obvious location" where it would be noticed by curious passersby.

The explosion hurled metal fragments from the device into several of the youngsters who found it on their way home from a movie shortly after midnight. Also seriously injured was David Zamora, 16, the nearest to the Morales youth when he pulled an object resembling a plastic-

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wrapped book from the envelope. Zamora suffered eye and face injuries and is also at Alta Bates Hospital.

Three other members of the Morales family — Francisco, 12; Rocio, 14 and Alfonso, 16 — and Linda Ortega, 14, all received numerous cuts from fragments.

Captain J. K. Stewart, who heads the police criminal investigation division, said this morning the device was in a plain Manila envelope about 10 inches by 12 inches.

"It was a high-order explosive device, sophisticated in nature, directly designed to injure or kill someone," Stewart said.

"While there is only one so far, there may be others."

He urged parents to report any suspicious package or envelope to the police at a 24-hour telephone number: 273-3426. Children should be warned to leave such packages or envelopes alone.

Stewart said the device used "an uncommon explosive," but its nature hasn't yet been determined.

"We don't know what triggered this one, but it was very sensitive. Merely picking it up might set it up."

Alejandro Morales apparently did not pick up the inch-thick brown envelope but only pulled the contents out two or three inches, and it detonated. He was reaching over the back of the bench, police said, and the bench may have absorbed enough of the blast to let him survive.

The six had attended the show at the Parkway Cinema, 1834 Park Boulevard, which let out about 12:20 a.m. One of the movies they saw was "A Piece of the Action" which has several scenes of children finding money in envelopes.

As the children started walking home they passed a bus stop bench about 50 feet south of the theater. The bench is one of two that sits in front of a retaining wall that partially surrounds the parking lot of a supermarket on the corner of Park Boulevard and East 18th Street.

Sgt. Ed Subica said one youth passed the bench before the Morales group, saw the envelope but did not touch it.

As his sister, Rocio, told The Tribune from their West Oakland home, "Everybody said 'money'. That was our first thought," referring to the movie they had seen.

Alfonso, still shaken from what had occurred, continued. "He stuck his fingers in to pull out whatever was in there and it just exploded."

Said Rocio, "I just heard it, covered my head and ran." She ran back into the theater to summon help.

After the children had been taken away, officers found pieces of shrapnel up to 50 feet away from the explosion center. Pieces of Alejandro's jacket lay scattered about.

The force of the explosion tore pieces out of the wooden bench and also twisted the structure's metal brackets.

A resident who lives two blocks away said he heard the explosion and then "just screaming."

All of the youngsters were hit by some kind of metal shrapnel, but Subica said, "We don't know where it came from, for sure."

Officers said they had no motive or suspects and would not comment if the movie had anything to do with the device being left where it was.

"I don't think it was a revolutionary thing," said Subica, "but someone who put it there intended to hurt someone."

"I just hope this is the last of it."

'Envelope' Bomb Warning Issued

DEC 6 1977

The bomb on a bus stop bench that exploded and injured six Oakland youngsters was a sophisticated device with an uncommon kind of explosive, police say, and there might be more of them around.

The highly sensitive bomb, left on the bench in an envelope, went off early Sunday when Alejandro (Alex) Morales, 13, tugged the contents a few inches out of the unmarked brown envelope.

He suffered serious injuries to his left hand, both eyes and his upper torso and is in critical condition in Alta Bates Hospital.

Police said the bomb was not mistakenly left on the bench on Park Boulevard but was instead "placed in an obvious location" where it would be noticed by passers-by.

Police circulated a special bulletin yesterday cautioning students and others to avoid handling any abandoned envelopes or packages of any sort. If one is seen, police should be called immediately at 273-3426.

BART officials announced they have instructed their employees to be on the lookout for envelopes on BART premises.

Sunday's explosion hurled metal fragments into several of the youngsters who had found the envelope on their way home from a movie shortly after midnight. Besides young Morales, a companion, David Zamora, 16,

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who knew what triggered one," Stewart said, "but it's very sensitive. Merely picking up might set it off."

Alejandro Morales apparently did not pick the envelope up, only pulled the contents out, or three inches, and it detonated. He was reaching over the back of the bus stop bench, police said, and the bench may have absorbed enough of

Bombs

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was seriously hurt. He was close to the Morales youth when he pulled an object resembling a plastic-wrapped book from the envelope, and suffered serious eye damage.

Three other members of the Morales family were treated for numerous cuts—Francisco, 12; Rocio, 14 and Alfonso, 16. A friend, Linda Ortega, 14, suffered similar wounds.

Captain J.K. Stewart, who heads the police criminal investigation division, said the device was in a plain manila envelope about 10 inches by 12 inches, and about an inch thick.

"It was a high-order explosive device, sophisticated in nature, directly designed to injure or kill someone," Stewart said.

"While there is only one so far, there may be others."

Several suspicious envelopes were reported to police yesterday, including one on a bulletin board of the Parks and Recreation Center at 1969 Park Blvd., one block from the site of Sunday's blast. All turned out to be harmless.

Stewart said the device made use of "an uncommon explosive," the nature of which is not yet known.

It has a hair trigger. "We don't know what triggered this one," Stewart said, "but it was very sensitive. Merely picking it up might set it off."

Alejandro Morales apparently did not pick the envelope up but only pulled the contents out two or three inches, and it detonated. He was reaching over the back of the bus stop bench, police said, and the bench may have absorbed enough of the

blast to allow him to survive.

The six children had attended the movie at the Parkway Cinema at 1834 Park Blvd. and came out into the street at 12:20 a.m. One of the pictures they saw was "A Piece of the Action," which has several scenes in which children find money in envelopes.

They noticed the envelope on the bench, about 50 feet south of the theater.

Rocio Morales told The Tribune that "Everybody said, 'money,' that was our first thought" after seeing the movie.

Alejandro reached for the envelope.

Alfonso Morales said, "He stuck his fingers in to pull out whatever was in there and it just exploded."

Said Rocio, "I just heard it." She ran to the theater to call for help.

Police found pieces of metal as far as 50 feet from the blast scene. The force of the explosion tore pieces out of the wooden bench, twisting its metal brackets.

U.S. Aid Sought in Envelope Bomb Case

DEC 6 1977

Oakland police have asked for federal help, saying they have no information that could lead them to the person who left an envelope bomb on a bus stop bench where it exploded and injured six youngsters early Sunday.

"We are very, very alarmed about this bombing and we fear it may happen again unless we get some leads," said Deputy Police Chief Joseph Colletti.

Police say the explosive device is of a sophisticated nature, and they think that a person knowledgeable enough to construct it might well have left it on a bench near a theater because the movie playing there shows children finding envelopes of money.

If it was such a trap, all the

police can do about it today, they said, is to repeat their warnings to parents and children to beware of suspicious envelopes and packages, particularly in this Christmas season when gift packages are everywhere. People with any doubt about a package ought to leave it alone and call police.

Meanwhile, particles of explosive residue from Sunday's bomb have been sent to the Treasury Department's Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division crime laboratory in San Francisco in the hope the material can be identified.

Captain J.K. Stewart, chief of the criminal division of the Oakland police department, thinks

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such bombs are contrived to be so sensitive that they can explode at a touch, police said, and should be left alone until bomb specialists arrive.

Envelope Bomb Case

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the bomb was "a sophisticated military-type device" because the small amount of explosive was so powerful.

The most seriously injured youngster, Alejandro "Alex" Morales, 13, remained in critical condition at Alta Bates Hospital today with injuries to his eyes, his left hand and upper torso. His friend David Zamora, 16, who suffered eye injuries, was released from the hospital yesterday afternoon.

Alejandro was the one who reached for the envelope after the youngsters, coming from the movie "A Piece of the Action" at the Parkway Theater on Park Boulevard, saw the 10-by-12-inch Manila envelope on a bus

bench and wondered whether it contained money. Alejandro pulled the contents—which appeared to resemble a plastic-wrapped book—about 3 inches out of the envelope and this detonated the explosive. David Zamora was standing near him.

Standing farther away, but also hurt by flying metal fragments, were Rocio Morales, 14, Alfonso Morales, 16, Francisco Morales, 12, and Linda Ortega, 14.

The bomb, an inch thick in its brown envelope, prompted a police alert yesterday to schools and other public facilities here warning of suspicious envelopes and packages. BART employees have been instructed to watch for such envelopes in trains and stations.

Such bombs are contrived to be so sensitive that they can explode at a touch, police said, and should be left alone until bomb specialists arrive.

Maiming of Boy, 13

JAN 12 1978

Oakland police today released composite drawings of two men sought for planting of an envelope bomb at a Park Boulevard bus bench that exploded moments later, maiming 13-year-old Alejandro Morales.

Descriptions for the drawings were obtained under hypnosis

from a key witness, according to Homicide Lt. Terry Green.

Green's boss, Capt. James Stewart, noted that while both men are suspects, they are also "possible witnesses too."

The bomb, left at the bus bench in the 1800 block of Park

Haines is well-known locally for previous successful use of hypnotized witnesses to obtain better descriptions of criminal suspects. Macris has also helped other police departments with his composite drawings.

Morales, who lost his left hand in the blast and nearly lost his sight, is at home recovering from a series of operations. He will undergo surgery again later this year. The youngster, said Stewart, is "doing well."

Morales, accompanied by several friends and relatives, had just left the Parkway Theater, when he spotted the envelope at the bus bench. He picked it up and when he tugged at the contents, it exploded. The blast shattered windows nearby and injured Morales' companions.

According to Stewart, the two suspects have been seen in the area around Park Boulevard

Boulevard Dec. 4, was inside a thin booklet in an envelope. Stewart said today that a federal laboratory study of the remnants of the bomb show "a high order" of explosive was used. The construction of the device, police have said, was "sophisticated."

The two men in the bulletin issued today were identified in great detail.

The first is 23 to 24 years old, about 5 feet 10, 140 to 150 pounds. He has dark brown hair, deep-set eyes and a half-inch cut over the left eye that runs into the eyebrow. He was dressed in a blue denim jacket, dark red shirt and dark blue denim trousers.

His appearance, according to the bulletin, "was semi-hippie."

The second man, between 19 to 21 years of age, is also 5 feet 10, weighs about 140 pounds and has dark eyes, brown and white—"salt and pepper"—hair and a pale complexion. He was clothed in a "cowboy" length dark blue denim coat, light-colored shirt, tight denim trousers and desert boots.

The detailed descriptions, according to Green and Stewart, were obtained by Concord Police Lt. Larry Haines, who hyp-

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notized an unidentified man, a key witness, they said.

The drawings were made by another specialist, San Jose Police Officer Thomas Macris.

Haines is well-known locally for previous successful use of hypnotized witnesses to obtain better descriptions of criminal suspects. Macris has also helped other police departments with his composite drawings.

Morales, who lost his left hand in the blast and nearly lost his sight, is at home recovering from a series of operations. He will undergo surgery again later this year. The youngster, said Stewart, is "doing well."

Morales, accompanied by several friends and relatives, had just left the Parkway Theater, when he spotted the envelope at the bus bench. He picked it up and when he tugged at the contents, it exploded. The blast shattered windows nearby and injured Morales' companions.

According to Stewart, the two suspects have been seen in the area around Park Boulevard and East 18th Street since the blast. He said some witnesses reported seeing the men there last week.

The key witnesses, said Stewart, "told us that the two men looked surprised when he (the witness) looked at them as they walked from the bench. They left the area very rapidly when they saw him looking at them."

Stewart, explaining why the two are also possible witnesses, said that the bomb was seen at the bus bench after the two, who had been sitting there, got up and walked away.

Questioned about the bomb itself, Stewart would only reveal the fact that a federal lab had typed the explosive, adding, "We are not at liberty to discuss the makeup of the bomb."

Police, said Green, have interviewed several hundred people during the investigation of the bombing. He added that the key witness's descriptions also followed those provided by others who were near the scene of the blast just before the explosion.

Envelope

JAN 13 1978

Two men sought by Oakland police in the planting of an envelope bomb at a Park Boulevard bus stop Dec. 4 were seen in the same neighborhood by witnesses as recently as last week, according to investigators.

Alejandro Morales, 13, who picked up the envelope on the bus stop bench near Park Boulevard and East 18th Street, lost his left hand in the blast and was nearly blinded.

Police yesterday released composite drawings of the two men, and named them as suspects and "possible witnesses."

Homicide Lt. Terry Green said that the two men were seen

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er Bomb Suspects

Police Issue Drawings

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walking away from the bench, where they had been seated, moments before Morales, leaving a nearby movie theater with several companions, picked up the package out of curiosity.

The best description furnished police was given by an unidentified man who detailed the appearance and clothing of the two suspects while under hypnosis.

Concord Police Lt. Larry Haines, a specialist in hypnosis, was called in by Oakland authorities to help obtain the descriptions. Another specialist, San Jose Police Officer Thomas Macris, an artist, made the drawings from descriptions provided by the unnamed witness and other witnesses.

"It was a beautiful description," said Capt. James Stewart, chief of the Oakland criminal investigation division, of the details obtained from the hypnotized witness.

The bomb, inside a thin booklet in an envelope, has been called "sophisticated" by investigators. Yesterday, while releasing the composite drawings, Stewart told a press conference that "a high order" of explosive was used in the bomb.

Pressed for additional details, Stewart said, "We are not at liberty to discuss the makeup of the bomb."

Other witnesses who saw the two men during the few moments before the blast have since told investigators that they

have seen the two men in the neighborhood during the past month. "The last time was seven or eight days ago," added Stewart.

Morales, who is "doing fine now," is recovering at home from a series of operations. He faces surgery later this year. Stewart said that when Morales was shown the composite drawings he had difficulty identifying the men because his vision was blurred by the blast.

The bulletin issued yesterday by the police included sketches of the two men and following descriptions:

The first suspect is 23 to 24 years old, is about 5 foot 10 inches, weighs 140 to 150 pounds. He has dark brown hair, deep set eyes and a half inch scar above the left eye which runs into the eyebrow. He was dressed in a blue denim jacket, dark red shirt and dark blue denim trousers.

The second suspect, somewhat smaller than his companion is 19 to 21 years old, is 5 foot 10 inches, weighs 140 pounds and is of slender build. His hair is brown and white—"salt-and-pepper"—and may have been dyed. He was clothed in a waist length, cowboy-style coat of dark blue denim material, light colored shirt, tight denim trousers and desert boots.

Stewart asked that anyone having information about the two men should call the Police Department's emergency telephone number, 273-3426.

The key witness, while under hypnosis, told Haines that when he noticed the two men seated on the bench and looked at them "they looked surprised" and walked quickly away.

Green said the two are suspects because they were the last persons near the bench before Morales and companions arrived. The bomb was there when the two walked away, said Green.

It is also possible that the two did not leave the bomb by the

bench and may be able to provide investigators with information of who was there before them.

"This is what makes them possible witnesses too," said Stewart.